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The May 1997 SOHO-Ulysses Quadrature

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Abstract

We present results from the May 1997 SOHO-Ulysses quadrature, near sunspot minimum. Ulysses was at 5.1 AU, 10° north of the solar equator, and off the east limb. It was, by chance, also at the very northern edge of the streamer belt. Nevertheless, SWOOPS detected only slow, relatively smooth wind and there was no direct evidence of fast wind from the northern polar coronal hole or of mixing with fast wind. LASCO images show that the streamer belt at 10°N was narrow and sharp at the beginning and end of the two week observation interval, but broadened in the middle. A corresponding change in density, but not flow speed, occurred at Ulysses. Coronal densities derived from UVCS show that physical parameters in the lower corona are closely related to those in the solar wind, both over quiet intervals and in transient events on the limb. One small transient observed by both LASCO and UVCS is analyzed in detail.

1. Introduction

SOHO-Ulysses quadrature occurs when the SOHO-Sun-Ulysses included angle is 90°. At such times, plasma leaving the Sun in the direction of Ulysses can first be remotely observed by SOHO instruments and then later be sampled in situ by Ulysses instruments. It is the only time such a direct comparison can be made. The quadratures occur twice a year as SOHO moves around the Sun. Figure 1 is a diagram of the orbits of SOHO and Ulysses which illustrates why quadratures occur. As shown, Ulysses is in a near polar solar orbit, inclined at 80° to the heliographic equator, with aphelion of 5.4 AU, perihelion of 1.34 AU, and period of about 5 years. The plane of the orbit is essentially fixed in the heliographic-inertial frame of reference. SOHO is at the L1 Lagrangian point between Earth and the Sun so it revolves with the Earth around the Sun once a year. The distance from Earth to SOHO is only 1% of the Earth-Sun distance, so SOHO and Earth are effectively at the same location for the purpose of making coordinated observations with Ulysses. Locations in the SOHO orbit at which quadrature occurs are indicated by triangles.

We report here on the May 1997 quadrature. SOHO was on the near side of the Sun in Figure 1 and a dashed line is drawn from the SOHO location to the east limb of the Sun at $\sim 10^{\circ}$ above the equator, the latitude of Ulysses, and then turns a right angle and goes directly to the location of Ulysses on the left portion of its orbit. This is the time when limb observations at the position angle of Ulysses can be used to analyze plasma which later reaches Ulysses. There are several measurements that could be made with instruments on SOHO and the results compared with the instruments on Ulysses. These include measurements of solar wind density, temperature, flow speed, magnetic field, composition, and transient behavior. We use data from the SOHO/LASCO C2 white light coronagraph to define the morphology of the corona, SOHO/UVCS to measure the density and flow speed (using the Doppler dimming technique [Kohl and Withbroe, 1982]) in and above the streamer, and Ulysses/SWOOPS for the resulting solar wind density, speed, and temperature. Data from the Ulysses magnetometer (VHM/FGM) is used to assess the state of the interplanetary magnetic field (IMF).

The data were taken near solar minimum, in the streamer belt (at the Sun) or in slow solar wind (at Ulysses). Therefore, the emphasis on the analysis will

be on flow properties of slow solar wind. This opportunity was an unusually good chance to analyze the slow solar wind since the Sun exhibited near solar minimum conditions at the same time as there was an absence of high speed streams and obvious concomitant corotating interaction region (CIR) effects at Ulysses. This is illustrated in Figure 2, which shows both the smoothed Boulder daily sunspot number for the ten year period ending just after the May 1997 quadrature and the solar wind speed at Ulysses from October 1996 through September 1997. The sunspot number had just begun to rise in May 1997 so observations made at successive quadratures would have missed solar minimum conditions. At the same time, Ulysses was deep in a series of CIRs, caused by an equatorial extension of the north polar coronal hole, up until the solar rotation preceeding the May 1997 quadrature. McComas et al. [1998] describe this more fully, showing that as Ulysses was seeing corotating high speed streams of the same magnetic polarity as the north polar coronal hole up until the beginning of May 1997. The CIRs disappeared just at that time, when Ulysses became completely immersed in the slow wind coming from the equatorial streamer belt. For these reasons, it would have been impossible to assess unmodified slow solar wind at an earlier quadrature. The May 1997 quadrature presents a unique opportunity to analyze slow wind at solar minimum.

The Ulysses-Sun-SOHO angle (Θ) changes by $\sim 1^{\circ}$ per day, or just the orbital motion of SOHO about the Sun, while the uncertainty in the location on the Sun from which solar wind originates, as determined by extrapolating backwards from Ulysses, is no less than $\pm 5^{\circ}$, due both to nonradial flows in the corona and to inaccuracies in assumptions made in the extrapolation. Because of this, we make observations for several days on either side of quadrature, over which Θ changes by less than the extrapolation uncertainty. In addition, by making limb observations over an extended period, the extrapolation uncertainty can be reduced through matching changes in flow at Ulysses with morphological changes at the Sun. This approach works best if solar features are changing slowly as they rotate past the limb. It also works on the occasion of large transients which can easily be correlated with subsequent changes at Ulysses. In the present case, the former conditions prevailed. The occurrence of quadratures is independent of solar rotation, but the sidereal solar rotation period being 25.5 days means that a single quadrature can be used

to study solar wind coming from a longitudinal swath of up to ~ 180 degrees on the Sun at the latitude of Ulysses as the Sun rotates beneath the footpoint of Ulysses.

For the May 1997 quadrature we selected the twelve day interval 21 May - 1 June, during which Θ ranged between $\sim 85^o$ and $\sim 107^o$ and over which the Sun rotated through an angle of about 160^o . The rotation of the Sun, combined with near solar minimum conditions at the time of the observations, means that the primary changes imposed on the solar wind reaching Ulysses were due to the rotation of relatively simple streamers past the limb of the Sun rather than to coronal transients.

In §2.1 we present LASCO C2 results, setting the context for the solar wind observations. In §2.2 we show the Ulysses/SWOOPS in situ data and extrapolate it back to the Sun. In §2.3 we compare the behavior of densities and flow speeds at low heliocentric heights, as inferred from UVCS observations, with the behavior of the same parameters inferred from in situ observations. A subject which we specifically address is the relationship between temporal variations in UVCS data, temporal variations in C2 white light data, and temporal variations at Ulysses. These three sections give sufficient results for a general discussion of the observations in §2.4. We then turn to more detailed aspects of the data. In §3 the large transients seen in LASCO C2 are discussed and compared with SWOOPS and VHM/FGM data to see if any of these transients had identifiable effects. We will show that no such effects were seen. In §4 we analyze a small UVCS transient seen on 26 May that may have had a signature in the Ulysses data. §5 summarizes the results and the success in analyzing slow solar wind by comparing observations made at the Sun with SOHO and in the solar wind with Ulysses during the May 1997 SOHO-Ulysses quadrature.

2. LASCO C2, SWOOPS, and UVCS Observations

2.1 LASCO C2

Figure 3 shows LASCO C2 white light coronagraph images (Brueckner et al., 1995) taken on 22 May 10:30h, 26 May 10:30h, and 1 June 1997 22:30h (panels (a), (b), and (c), respectively). The direction to Ulysses is shown by the white line 10° north of the white line at the equator equator on the east limb in panel (a). It can be seen that on 22 May and 1 June Ulysses lay at the northern edge of the bright

streamer.

During the entire period of $21~\mathrm{May}$ to $1~\mathrm{June}~1997$ the east limb of the Sun was dominated by streamers at the equator and large coronal holes over both poles. However, as the Sun rotated, the character of the equatorial streamers changed. At the beginning (panel (a)) the streamer was somewhat diffuse, but was made up of a single structure with a very sharp edge at the north. Over 23-24 May, the streamer changed into a fan of bright rays that persisted for several days, although the individual rays came and went. This suggested a "forest" of quasi-steady bright rays was being swept past the limb of the Sun by solar rotation. On 29 May, the east limb equatorial streamer returned to a single but even more narrow structure than existed on 22 May. The north edge of that streamer was less sharp than on 21 May, but was still poleward of the latitude of Ulysses.

LASCO makes ~ 50 C2 images each day and mpeg movies are readily available from the LASCO web site (http://lasco-www.nrl.navy.mil/daily_mpg/), made at a cadence of \sim one each 1/2 hour. We surveyed images and mpeg movies for CMEs and each day during the observing interval was classified as to whether it was quiet or contained a CME. Quiet days were further distinguished between those with apparent evolutionary or transient changes in the east-limb streamers and those in which the streamer was apparently steady. The results are summarized in Table 1. Small CMEs were found on the east limb on 23 May, 25 May, and 1 June. Later we will discuss whether these CMEs might have been on or off the limb, and whether they affected the solar wind at Ulysses. Generally, however, conditions at both Ulysses and the Sun were unusually quiet throughout the entire 12 day interval.

The most obvious change seen in the LASCO images is the fanning out of the east limb streamer on 24-29 May. The reason this happened can be seen from the Wilcox Solar Observatory photospheric and source surface magnetic fields for Carrington Rotation 1923 (CR 1923) that are shown in Figures 4 and 5. In Figure 5, a light box is drawn around the longitude range 200 - 250 degrees, corresponding to the time shifted interval of the forest of bright rays that is shown in Figure 3(b). A north-south positive unipolar region is at $\sim 210^{\circ}$ and a north-south negative region is at $\sim 230^{\circ}$. This suggests an arcade that was highly inclined away from the equator as the explanation for the forest. The resulting source surface neutral line in Figure 4 shows that the heliospheric current sheet

Table

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(HCS) was predicted to have a dislocation due to the north-south unipolar regions in the photosphere. The 24-29 May fanning out of the streamer closely corresponds to conditions during the LASCO C2 observations reported by Wang et al. [1997] for data taken in 1996. They similarly reported a dislocation in the neutral line and an inferred tilt in the streamer belt. It appears that conditions then were almost identical to those during May-June 1997 and we adopt their interpretation for the fanning out of the streamer belt on 24-29 May.

2.2 SWOOPS

The Ulysses solar wind plasma instrument measures the three-dimensional ion and electron velocity distributions every four or eight minutes. Here we use one hour average data for protons - the speed, number density, and temperature. We also use supplemental data from VHM/FGM, the Ulysses vector magnetometer.

In May-June 1997, Ulysses was 5.1 AU from the Sun, the solar wind speed was 375 \pm 25 km/s, and it took about three weeks for solar wind plasma to pass from the Sun to Ulysses. $\Theta = 90^{o}$ occurred on 26 May so the corresponding date the solar wind reached Ulysses was around 16 June. The 12 day interval 21 May - 1 June for SOHO observations therefore roughly corresponded to 11 June - 23 June at Ulysses. This serves for estimating when to examine Ulysses data. Over the 12 day interval, Ulysses moved $< 1^{\circ}$ in latitude so can be considered to have also been at a fixed solar latitude during this time. The source time for the solar wind at Ulysses is found by extrapolating back to the Sun using the measured speed and the distance, latitude, and longitude of Ulysses. We used the constant velocity approximation (CVA) to extrapolate the solar wind back to one solar radius. This type of extrapolation is generally uncertain to no better than $O[\pm 5^{\circ}]$, but we have direct observations of the solar corona which allow us to confirm the extrapolation by comparison with variations in the structure of the corona and to make adjustments if there are discrepancies. As will be seen, the remarkable conditions in May-June 1997 allow the extrapolation to be remarkably accurate. Specifically, the nearly constant radial flow speed meant there was little dynamic interaction and enabled a more accurate extrapolation using the CVA.

Two competing processes partially counteract each other to further increase the accuracy of the CVA. Corotation of solar wind plasma with the Sun is sig-

nificant out to the Alfvén radius [Weber and Davis, 1967], shifting the extrapolated CVA departure longitude at the Sun eastward. Conversely, the solar wind speed decreases near the Sun, shifting the extrapolated CVA departure longitude westward. Both effects are of the same order of magnitude, a few degrees.

Figure 6(a) shows the one hour average solar wind data from 14 - 29 June 1997 (DoY 165-180) at Ulysses. The speed is between ~ 350 and 425 km/s throughout the interval, with relatively small variability except for a small shock jump of 35 km/s on day 168. For comparison, Figure 6(b) shows flow speed for two weeks in the summer of 1997 when Ulysses was still close to the heliographic equator and 5.1 AU, but immersed in typical slow solar wind. The variability was larger than in June and similar to typical slow wind observed at other distances and latitudes, with a range of 300 - 440 km/s. There were also at least two shocks similar to the small shock seen at quadrature. This illustrates that the solar wind in June 1997 was unusually quiet and that the shock was not atypical.

The density and magnetic field in 6(a) show a higher variability after the shock. In addition, two features are particularly noticeable. First, the region shaded in gray is a time of low ion plasma β (\leq 0.5) such as is often found in CMEs. At the same time, there was an anomalously low helium abundance which is less common but not unknown in CMEs. This interval and the CMEs will be discussed in §3. Second, there is a density spike at DoY 171.5 during which there is a corresponding drop in field strength. This small, isolated, partially pressure-balanced structure will be discussed in §4.

Figure 7 shows the solar wind speed and density from the quadrature interval after it has been mapped back to the Sun. In this plot, the horizontal axis is the day of year (DoY) the plasma left the Sun, where DoY 141 is 21 May 1997 and DoY 152 is 1 June 1997. To find the corresponding Carrington longitude, reference can be made to the scale shown in Figure 4, where it is seen that the extrapolated departure longitude ranges from \sim 270-280 degrees on 21 May to \sim 120-130 degrees on 1 June. The gap between \sim DoY 143.5 and 145 in this Figure 7 is due to the shock; the faster plasma to the right of the shock in Figure 6 is extrapolated to leave the Sun at a later date.

The density data in Figure 7 fall naturally into three intervals; I1 from DoY to 141.0 to 143.0, I2 from DoY 143.0 to 149.0, and I3 from DoY 149.0 to 151.0. Intervals I1 and I3 have low density variabil-

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ity in comparison to I2. These intervals closely correspond to the changing appearance of the streamer belt shown in Figure 3; intervals I1 and I3 are when there was one well-defined streamer while interval I2 was when the streamer belt had fanned out into the forest. The solar wind proton and alpha particle temperatures behaved much the same way as the density, and these are shown in Figure 8. What imposed the density and temperature irregularities at the Sun may also have had corresponding fluctuations in flow speed, but such fluctuations would have had a scale size comparable to the density and temperature signatures. It can easily be shown that such small scale speed fluctuations will be eliminated by dynamical interactions far inside 5 AU [Neugebauer et al., 1995] and this is probably why they were absent at Ulysses.

2.3 UVCS

During the SOHO-Ulysses quadrature, UVCS observed coronal plasma for about nine hours per day. Observations were performed at 3.5 and 4.5 R_{sun} , starting with an 8100 s observation at 3.5 R_{sun} , followed by an equally long observation at 4.5 R_{sun} . Subsequent observations alternated between the two heights, spending, as a rule, 2700 s at 3.5 and 5400 s at 4.5 R_{sun} . These exposure times are long enough to guarantee a high statistical significance of Lyman- α data because, even at these altitudes, the line is fairly strong. The much weaker OVI lines are affected by statistical errors which may be fairly large (see Section 4). Data have a spatial resolution of 21 arcsec per pixel: an average value over 4 (5) pixels has been considered representative of the line intensity over an ≈ 1 degree latitude interval centered at ≈ 10 degree latitude, at 3.5 (4.5) R_{sun} . Data have been calibrated and corrected for flat field effects in the standard way [Gardner et al., 1996]; no stray light correction has been applied because the stray light, at these heights, amounts to $\approx 10^{-9}$ of the disk intensity of the line (Gardner, private communication) and its contribution to the total line intensity is negligible.

Analysis of UVCS data allows us to derive the temporal profile of two parameters that are also measured in situ, by Ulysses experiments: electron density (N_e) and flow speed. For an estimate of density variation, we can use the Ly- α intensity, $I_{Ly-\alpha}$, vs. time because $I_{Ly-\alpha}$ depends on density, electron temperature and flow speed (and, obviously, on spectroscopic parameters, see, e.g., Withbroe et al. [1982]). Because major variation in electron temperatures are unlikely and the flow speed, in streamers, should not sensi-

bly dim the $Ly-\alpha$ intensity (flow speeds of about 75 km/s weaken the line by only 20%, via Doppler dimming effects), any fluctuation of $I_{Ly-\alpha}$ is mainly due to density variations. Absolute values of the density at lower temporal resolution can be derived from the collisional component of the intensity of the OVI 1037Å line $I_{OVI37,coll}$ [Corti et al., 1997]: this technique to infer densities from $I_{OVI37,coll}$ will be reviewed in §4. Here, we focus on the plasma fluctuations. Absolute values of plasma parameters are not needed.

Analogously, variations in plasma flow speed, if any within streamers, may be inferred by studying the temporal variation of the ratio $R = I_{OVI32}/I_{OVI37}$ as a flow speed proxy. R depends on the flow speed because the Doppler dimming of the two lines is not the same. [see, e.g., Noci et al., 1987]: however, quantitative values of the flow speed can be derived only through modeling [e.g., Cranmer et al., 1999]. Order-of-magnitude estimates of the plasma flow speed during an unusual event will be made in §4.

Figure 9 shows the temporal profile of $I_{Ly-\alpha}$ vs. time from DoY 141 to DoY 153, to be compared with the SWOOPS densities: every data point represents the average intensity over the observing time span. $I_{Ly-\alpha}$ changes, over the quadrature interval, by less than a factor of two, but there are definite subintervals that are distinct from each other and which correspond closely to the intervals I1, I2, and I3 of Figure 7 and are given again here. Obviously, the density pattern at 5 A.U. is analogous to the density pattern in the low corona.

The uncertainty in $I_{Ly-\alpha}$ is < 5% and therefore is not displayed in this figure. There is one data point at 3.5 R_{sun} that does not follow the overall trend, the unusually high density observed late on DoY 146. The high density value observed by SWOOPS on DoY 147.5 may have been related. This UVCS event is further discussed in §4.

Figure 10 gives the temporal profile of R at 3.5 and 4.5 R_{sun} . As in the $I_{Ly-\alpha}$ plot, every data point represents the average of R over the observing interval. The data are consistent with no time variation, as observed at Ulysses. However, we note that the 1σ error bars shown in Figure 10, especially those on DoY 149/150, imply considerable uncertainty in these results. Possibly, we can say that, at 3.5 R_{sun} . $R \approx 2.6$ (except on 23 May) while at 4.5 R_{sun} $R \approx 2.0$. This may be an indication that OVI ions accelerate, in the altitude interval between 3.5 R_{sun} and 4.5 R_{sun} . Knowledge of plasma temperatures (electron, and ki-

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netic ion parallel and perpendicular temperatures) and densities, is necessary to give a quantitative estimate of the plasma flow speed. An attempt in this direction is made in §4, but we notice that a value of R=2.5 is consistent with nearly all the data points at 4.5 R_{sun} . Thus, an alternative interpretation where very little acceleration takes place in between the two heights, apart from sporadic cases, is acceptable as well.

There is one data point that does not follow the general trend: at 3.5 R_{sun} a low R value has been derived on DoY 143. This is not mimicked by high speed values in *in situ* observations. If it was a transient only in speed, then such a brief speed fluctuation would never survive to 5 AU [Neugebauer et al., 1995]. There was no corresponding fluctuation in $I_{Ly-alpha}$.

2.4 Synopsis

The solar wind at Ulysses was not just slow during the May 1997 quadrature, it was also unusually smooth. Typical speed fluctuations were virtually absent between DoY 141 and DoY 153. Referring to the sub-intervals I1, I2, and I3, the density and temperature were also unusually smooth in intervals I1 and 13. Conversely, they exhibited more typical fluctuations during interval I2. In the corona, interval I2 corresponded to the time when the streamer belt appeared to fan out into a forest of rays in LASCO C2 (Figure 3). The Wilcox Solar Observatory 2.5 R_{sun} neutral line map (Figure 4) shows a ripple or bump in the neutral line at about the same location as the forest and there was a north-south trending region of more complex field structure in the photosphere, beneath the forest. It is our interpretation that the forest represents a view across an inclined portion of the streamer belt at this time, a situation and interpretation which are identical to those suggested by Wang et al. [1997] for a period during 1996. We note in passing that the forest of rays in LASCO was also visible in UVCS Ly- α intensity, a density proxy, although we do not show intensity versus latitude here. The related density fluctuations at Ulysses could either be the ray-like structures in the corona being swept past the Ulysses footpoint by solar rotation or, alternatively, a series of small transients embedded in the tilted streamer. However, no evidence of such a group of small transients was seen in LASCO.

Considering UVCS data from the quadrature, there may be an indication of larger Doppler dimming at a height of 4.5 R_{sun} than at 3.5 R_{sun} , where the oxygen speed is presumably well below 100 km/s (see §4).

This suggests flow speeds of < 100 km/s at 3.5 R_{sun} .

If it is assumed that the bright streamer boundary is the fast/slow solar wind boundary, then this boundary must not have moved significantly equatorward between a few solar radii and 5 AU. Specifically, the boundary of the coronal hole flow could not have moved equatorward by more than a few degrees. This is simply because there was no hint of fast solar wind at Ulysses. Also, there is no evidence of mixing due to shear instabilities on the interface between slow and fast wind at Ulysses. This is true across all three intervals I1, I2, and I3.

3. CMEs

The activity throughout the quadrature observing interval, as deduced from LASCO C2 movies and individual images, is summarized in Table 1. In that table, it is indicated that there were small CMEs on 23 (DoY 142) and 25 May (DoY 144), and again on 1 June (DoY 152). The CMEs on 23 and 25 May are shown in Figure 11. There is no counterpart to the CMEs on 23 May and 1 June in the data shown in Figures 7 and 8. However, the small shock on DoY 144 is coincident with the CME on that day. This raises the question of whether that, or either of the other two CMEs, might have been the source of this small shock and/or the fluctuations in temperature, density, and field strength observed in interval I2.

There are several interplanetary manifestations of CMEs that are discussed in the literature. Some of these relate to those CMEs which result in a magnetic cloud. A magnetic cloud is associated with a rotation in the interplanetary magnetic field [Klein and Burlaga, 1982] which is thought to indicate the presence of a magnetic flux rope that is the signature of the filament that existed at the origin point of the cloud on the Sun. We plot the meridional and azimuthal components of the IMF (RTN coordinates) in Figure 12 and it is obvious that there is a partial rotation of the IMF in the B_o component during interval I2. The field begins turning eastward on DoY 145, is furthest east on DoY 147, and returns to the radial direction on DoY 151 so that the total duration of the eastward turning is almost a week. Typically clouds last a day or so at 1 AU, and expand with increasing heliocentric distance, so this duration is not inconsistent with the model. Furthermore, it is fairly common for a magnetic cloud to drive a shock in front of it and this rotation corresponds to the low ion plasma β interval noted in Figure 6(a). However,

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the flow vector components suggest that this may not be a cloud at all. The velocity components V_{θ} and V_{ϕ} are plotted at the top of Figure 12. V_{ϕ} turns westward at the shock, then rotates to the east. This is a typical CIR signature. V_{θ} turns strongly southward at the shock and rotates back to the radial direction, which is unusual for a magnetic cloud but is typical for a flow being driven by a nearby CIR [e.g. *Pizzo and Gosling*, 1994].

The FeXIV north polar coronal hole boundaries from CR1922 and CR1923 are plotted in Figure 5. This shows that the polar coronal hole that drove the high speed streams in earlier rotations (shown in Figure 2(b)) has receded by CR 1923 and no high speed stream was seen at Ulysses during the preceding CR. Moreover, the plots of V_{θ} , V_{ϕ} , and B_{θ} from CR1922 look exactly like those shown in Figure 12 and the Fe XIV map shows the north polar coronal hole still extending towards the equator in CR 1922, between longitudes 0 and 160 degrees. Thus, it appears that the eastward turning of the IMF was due to a high speed stream to the west and north of the Ulysses footpoint shown in Figure 4.

Since the CMEs on 23 and 25 May seemed not to have encountered Ulysses, they must have been located off the limb and moving in an unfavorable direction. The C2 images in Figure 11 seem to show that the CME overlies the streamers and Table 1 shows that the streamer belt appeared unaffected by the passage of the CMEs. Therefore it is likely that these CMEs were erupting magnetic structures not above the east limb, but either in front or behind the visible disk.

To investigate further whether the eastward B_{ϕ} shown in Figure 12 might have been a magnetic cloud, we also looked for bidirectional streaming of energetic electrons, a reliable signature of the presence of locally closed magnetic field lines since the electrons will tend to circulate in both directions along the field [Gosling et al., 1987]. No bidirectional streaming was visible in 84-115 eV electrons (those corresponding to coronal temperatures) on 19, 20, and 21 June (DoY 170, 171, and 172 in Figure 6). On 18 June (DoY 169), the day after the small shock, there was some weak counterstreaming but no significant evidence of a magnetic cloud. Typically, for a magnetic cloud strong bidirectional streaming would begin with the eastward turning of the field and persist for anywhere from half to the full duration of the cloud. Therefore, we suspect that the weak events observed on 18 June do not show the presence of a magnetic cloud.

From this we conclude that the small shock on DoY 168 in Figure 6 was associated with a CIR north of Ulysses and driven by an equatorial extension of the polar coronal hole that was the last vestige of the large extension which produced the long series of CIRs shown in Figure 2(b).

4. A UVCS Transient Event on 26 May

Since Ulysses was immersed in exceptionally smooth slow solar wind throughout the quadrature interval, this presents an opportunity to examine more closely a small transient observed by LASCO C2. These transients are common but far too small to be classified as CMEs. One such transient, shown in Figure 13, was observed on 26 May at the latitude of Ulysses. In §2 we concluded that the plasma at 10°N moved very little in latitude between the outer edge of the field of view of LASCO C2 and Ulysses at 5 AU at this time so it is possible this small event could have been detected at Ulysses.

The event, as described above, shows up as a high $I_{Ly-\alpha}$ data point at 3.5 R_{sun} in Figure 9 on DoY 146. In Figure 14 (top panel) we show the temporal profile of the Ly- α line intensity at 3.5 R_{sun} , with a time resolution of the order of 15 minutes, and (middle panel) the temporal profile of the Ly- α line intensity at 4.5 R_{sun} , with a time resolution on the order of 20-30 minutes. The figure refers to observations made over the time interval from DoY 146.66 to 146.98: unfortunately, between 146.98 and 147.71, we have only a single 5 minute observation, which is too short to be of any use. The bottom panel gives the ratio of the OVI 1032 to OVI 1036 line intensities, at 3.5 (crosses) and at 4.5 (asterisks) R_{sun} . averaged over each observing interval.

The enhanced Ly- α intensity in the time interval between DoY 146.95 and DoY 146.98 points to a density increase – whose maximum must have occurred at the time we were observing at 4.5 R_{sun} – possibly associated with the LASCO C2 transient. A density larger than unperturbed densities by a factor ≈ 1.4 accounts for the observed Ly- α variation and this is a lower limit to the true density enhancement because it was derived assuming Doppler dimming has not affected the data. In the following, we try to give a quantitative estimate of densities, prior to and during this event, under the assumption that, prior to the transient, the plasma flow speed, both at 3.5 and 4.5 R_{sun} , is negligible.

To this end, we need to complement observations

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at 3.5 and 4.5 R_{sun} with data taken by the standard daily UVCS synoptic program. In the UVCS synoptic program, radial scans are made at six heliocentric heights (from 1.5 up to 2.25 or 3 R_{sun} , depending on the observing latitude), moving the slit around the disk in steps of 45 degrees, thus providing radial profiles of the Ly- α and OVI line intensities over the entire corona. Identifying the OVI line intensities along the radial direction where the Ulysses-SOHO observations were made, we get the OVI intensity profile from 1.5 to 4.5 R_{sun} (ignoring possible temporal variations between the synoptic and the Ulysses-SOHO observations) in the direction pointing to the Ulysses spacecraft. The OVI intensities vs. heliocentric distance data allow us to derive the electron density profile over that altitude range: we refer the reader to Corti et al. [1997] for a description of the technique we use to this purpose. Here, it suffices to mention that OVI lines have a radiative and a collisional contribution, and that the collisional contribution depends (among other factors) on the square of the electron density, integrated along the line of sight. Identifying the collisional contribution with the 1037 Å line, and assuming a priori a power law profile for the density vs. heliocentric distance, electron densities can be evaluated.

Figure 15 shows the electron density profile for DoY 146: density values agree with those derived (from Van de Hulst inversion of pB data) for the west limb streamers observed in August 1996 by Gibson et al. [1999] and are typical of the minimum equatorial corona [Allen, 1962]. This also agrees with the densities derived from LASCO C2 pB analysis for the same locations in the corona to within the size of the error bars shown in Figure 15 (D. Biesecker, priv. comm.). We will refer to this density profile as to the unperturbed density profile, because it has been derived from observations not affected by the transient event.

Knowledge of the unperturbed electron density vs. height profile allows us to check whether the unperturbed Ly- α intensities, at 3.5 and 4.5 R_{sun} can be reproduced by a steady plasma. In this case, we may move on and evaluate the plasma flow speed, and density, during the transient event. We remind the reader that the total (i.e. integrated over the line profile) Ly- α intensity, as observed along the LOS direction $\bf n$ is given by

$$I_{Ly-\alpha} = \frac{hB_{12}\lambda_0}{4\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} N_1 dx \int_{\Omega} p(\varphi)F(\delta\lambda)d\omega' \quad (1)$$

where h is the Planck constant; B_{12} the Einstein coefficient for the line; λ_0 is the rest value for the central wavelength λ of the Ly- α transition; N_1 is the number density of hydrogen atoms in the ground level; the unit vector \mathbf{n} is along the line of sight x and the unit vector n' is along the direction of the incident radiation; φ is the angle between **n** and **n**'; $p(\varphi) d\omega'$ -where ω' is the solid angle around n'- is the probability that a photon travelling along the direction n was travelling, before scattering, along the direction n'; Ω is the solid angle subtended by the chromosphere at the point of scattering; $\delta\lambda$ is the redshift, I_{chrom} is the exciting chromospheric radiation and Φ is the coronal absorption profile. For the sake of simplicity, in the following, we assume that the whole Ly- α emission comes, at 3.5 and 4.5 R_{sun} , from a steady plasma at uniform temperature and density, which extends along the LOS over a length L. The parameter L is estimated from the observations taken at 3.5 R_{sun} and used to evaluate the $I_{Ly+\alpha}$ at 4.5 R_{sun} , to check on the consistency of this simplified scenario.

If the Ly- α line originates from a slab at constant temperature and density, with no plasma flow, its intensity is given by

$$I_{Ly-\alpha} \approx const \times f(T_e)F(T_k)N_eL$$
 (2)

where the kinetic temperature T_k is constrained by the width of the line, and T_e is the electron temperature. The kinetic temperature T_k is rather well known in streamers: see, e.g. Kohl et al. [1997], Miralles et al., [1999], Maccari et al. [1999]. In the following we will assume $T_k = 1.6 \times 10^6$ K, in agreement with results from the previous authors. We note that T_k values in the literature refer to temperatures perpendicular to the magnetic field; parallel kinetic temperatures are essentially unknown and their values are generally chosen in between electron and perpendicular temperature values. We assume $T_{\parallel}=1.2\times10^6$ K for Ly-lpha: changing the value of T_{\parallel} from $T_{\parallel}=T_e$ to $T_{\parallel} = T_k$ changes the $Ly - \alpha$ intensity by no more than 15%. There are a few electron temperature evaluations in streamers, at low altitudes (see, e.g., Raymond et al. [1997], Li et al. [1998], Frazin et al., [1999], Parenti et al. [1999]), but the only estimate at higher levels has been made by Fineschi et al. [1998], who give a value of $T_e = 1.1 \times 10^6 \pm .25 \cdot 10^6$ K, at 2.7 R_{sun} . In the following, we will assume $T_e = 10^6$, at 3.5 R_{sun} , and $T_e = .9 \times 10^5$ K, at 4.5 R_{sun} , on the grounds that T_e is likely to slowly decrease as we move outwards from the Sun. The choice of T_e is not crucial: the neutral hydrogen abundance varies by <

10%, when T_e changes from 1.1 to 1×10^6 K, and by 20%, when T_e changes from 10^6 to 9×10^5 K.

The observed intensity of the Ly- α line, at 3.5 R_{sun} , is reproduced with the choice of T_k, T_{\parallel}, T_e mentioned above and the N_e value given at that altitude by the unperturbed density profile, provided the integration length is on the order of 2 solar radii. Assuming a radial expansion of the emitting region, densities from the unperturbed profile, and temperatures mentioned above, we reproduce the Ly- α intensity at 4.5 R_{sun} fairly well $(I_{Ly-\alpha}=1.3\times10^9~phot~cm^{-2}~s^{-1}~sr^{-1}$ vs. an observed value of $\approx 1.45\times10^9~phot~cm^{-2}~s^{-1}~sr^{-1}$). We conclude that order of magnitude estimates of $I_{Ly-\alpha}$, at 3.5 and 4.5 R_{sun} are consistent with the hypothesis that, at those levels, plasma flow speeds are negligible.

Further support to this scenario comes from OVI lines: the observed OVI line intensities, and ratio, are consistent with values we obtain by calculating the OVI line intensities with the density, integration length and electron temperature used for Ly- α . At 3.5 R_{sun} , the OVI kinetic temperature has been taken to be $T_k = 1.4 \times 10^7$ K, from estimates given by Kohl et al. [1997], and Frazin et al. [1999], and we assumed $T_{\parallel} = 3 \times 10^6$ K. With these physical parameters, we get line intensities which agree with observations (e.g. $I_{OVI,1037} = 1.1 \times 10^7 \ phot \ cm^{-2} \ s^{-1} \ sr^{-1}$, precisely as observed). It is worth noting that a ratio R of the OVI 1032 to OVI 1037 line intensities on the order of 2.9-3.1 is compatible with flow speed lower than 50 km/s. Such flow speeds would leave the Ly- α intensity practically unaffected (variations lower than 5%) and relax somewhat our previous assumption of a steady plasma. The presence of flows of this order of magnitude is confirmed by the evaluation of the OVI line intensities at 4.5 R_{sun} , where the best agreement with observations (values within the error bar of measured intensities, which are on the order of 30%, or larger) is obtained by assuming an outflow of 40 km/s. This is comparable the lowest speeds reported by Sheeley et al. [1997] at 4.5 R_{sun} using time-lapse sequences of LASCO images.

Once the unperturbed physical parameters have been determined, we may examine the transient event. At the time of the UVCS transient, at DoY ≈ 146.95 , at 3.5 R_{sun} , the Ly- α intensity increases by a factor 1.4, implying densities of about $3 \times 10^5~cm^{-3}$ (this is a lower limit to the actual density increase, as we assume that no dimming is present). At 4.5 R_{sun} , if we allow for the same density increase and in the absence of appreciable plasma flows, we would expect an

analogous increase of the Ly- α intensity. On the contrary, the Ly- α intensity drops by about 20%. This allows us to make an estimate of the differential flow speed, between 3.5 and 4.5 R_{sun} , necessary to account for the observed low intensity value, from a Doppler dimming calculation. It turns out that the plasma flow speed is on the order of 125 km/s. This is consistent with the 100 km/s derived from inspection of the westward motion of the event in Figure 13.

At this flow speed, the OVI lines are strongly dimmed and the ratio between the 1032 and 1037 Å line intensities is shown by Figure 16 to be R=1.45. Although the error bar in the "observed" R value, at $4.5\ R_{sun}$, is so large that any value between 0.9 and 2.2 is acceptable, predicted and observed values agree fairly well. What is perhaps even more significant, is that the only time when it is impossible to find a unique value of R, fitting within the error bars of the observed values at 3.5 and $4.5\ R_{sun}$, is the time interval under examination, for which a substantial flow speed has been inferred, and a minimum value of R is found.

The event we observed turned out to have a minimal density increase, with respect to the unperturbed situation, of a factor 1.4, and an outward speed of the order of 125 km/s. As we pointed out, this is not a unique interpretation, although consistent with all our data. For instance, we cannot rule out larger outflow speeds, at 3.5 R_{sun} , if data at DoY 146.95 were affected by Doppler dimming that goes unrevealed. In passing, we notice that the range of altitudes where we observed, and the outflow speed we derived, is the same range where Wang et al. [1998], from LASCO data, observed the birth of plasma "blobs" at the top of helmet streamers flowing outwards with initial speed of the same order of magnitude as the outflow that we evaluated. The event we examined is more like a small CME, but the speed is like the blobs.

We now address briefly the other case when UVCS observations show an anomalous data point. The only time when R gives an indication of a high outflows at 3.5 R_{sun} is on May 23, in the time interval between 19:32 and 20:17 UT, when R=1.2. It is unfortunate that the values of R at the higher heliocentric distance are so uncertain (the errors are on the order 100%), that we do not have any reliable indication of the plasma conditions at that level. Quite likely, the presence of such high uncertainty points to a weakening of the lines, hence to the persistence of high flows also beyond 3.5 R_{sun} . The Lyman- α intensity, on the other hand, though brighter by nearly 50%

than it was on the previous day, shows no fluctuations during the observations of May 23. Data do not provide us with sufficient information to understand what caused the low R, high speed plasma we observe. Seemingly, it was a velocity event, unaccompanied by density variation. The $in\ situ$ data do not show any anomalously high speed data point, as expected for small scale speed fluctuations (see §2.2).

5. Summary

The May 1997 SOHO-Ulysses quadrature presented an extraordinary opportunity for analyzing slow solar wind originating from a solar minimum streamer belt. Ulysses was only 10° north of the equator, near the latitude of the bright boundary of the streamers lying on the limb at that time, and detected nothing but unusually smooth slow wind. The precise quadrature date was 26 May but, due to the slow orbital motion of SOHO and Ulysses around the Sun, data from up to a week on either side of the quadrature can be assumed to come from the limb, to within the accuracy of the extrapolation between Ulysses and the Sun. During this time, the Sun will turn through almost half of a full solar rotation, with different features rotating onto and off of the limb beneath the footpoint of Ulysses.

We used LASCO C2 images (2-6 R_{sun}) to assess the morphology of the features on the limb and three major intervals were identified - I1, I2, and I3. There were simple, isolated streamers on the limb during I1 and I3, but the streamer belt fanned out into a forest of rays during I2. Using Wilcox Solar Observatory photosphere and source surface magnetic field maps, we conclude that I2 resulted from a region where the streamer belt was inclined to the heliographic equator and hence was being viewed obliquely. This is a situation very similar to that reported by $Wang\ et\ al.\ [1997]$, where they diagnosed conditions using a model and synthetic images that closely reproduced the observations.

An important result is that throughout the quadrature interval, Ulysses was very close to the extrapolated latitude of the bright boundary of the streamer belt - sometimes within only a degree or two of its latitude. Nevertheless, no evidence was seen of any fast solar wind or of any mixing between fast and slow solar wind. If it is assumed that the brightness boundary and the fast/slow wind boundary are the same, then there could have been no significant further equatorward motion of that boundary between

6 R_{sun} and 5.1 AU. In addition, there is no evidence of the presence of shear instabilities on the interface between fast and slow wind.

Three small CMEs were observed in LASCO C2 during the quadrature interval. These CMEs generally appeared to leave the streamer belt on the limb unaffected and it was concluded that they all originated from regions sufficiently far off the limb that any resulting interplanetary disturbances completely missed Ulysses. The small shock visible on DoY 168 in Figure 6 was probably due to a CIR lying north of the latitude of Ulysses. The CIR-induced shock would have originated somewhere inside 5 AU and propagated equatorwards to the latitude of Ulysses. The equatorward flow following the shock is insufficient to move the streamer boundary equatorward by more than $\sim 2^{\circ}$. The low ion plasma β region identified in Figure 6(a) has some properties of CMEs but is more likely due to some inherent property of slow wind coming from the inclined streamer belt.

The extraordinarily quiet conditions during the quadrature interval offered the opportunity of more closely examining small transients observed in white light in LASCO C2 and in spectral emission with UVCS. Such comparisons have not been made before between SOHO and Ulysses. The two transients which we examined have a signature in the plasma outflow speed - as seen from UVCS 1032/1037 OVI line ratio - which is apparently higher than in standard conditions. The signature, however, is completely lost at the distance of Ulysses, as expected. UVCS data show that in one of the events (26 May) there is a density increase which is possibly identifiable in in situ data as the density spike on DoY 147.5 in Figure 7. Analysis of the UVCS transient allowed us to derive average plasma parameters (density, temperature, and outflow speed) close to the Sun: its main characteristics can be reproduced by assuming that only density changed, with respect to pre-event conditions. This compares well with Ulysses data, where a density increase unaccompanied by any variation in temperature and flow speed, has been observed in association with the LASCO/UVCS transient. We conclude that with the exception of flow speeds, plasma variability at low coronal heights can be reliably transported to the far distant solar wind plasma under quiet conditions.

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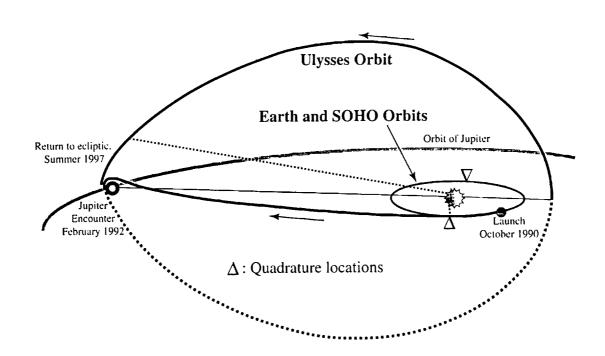
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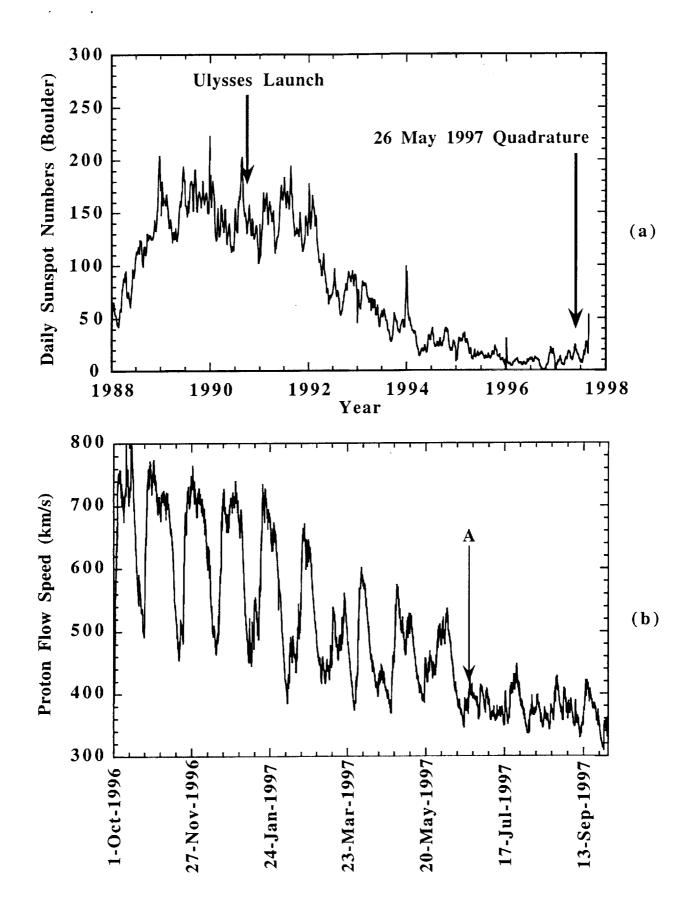
- Figure 1. Orbits of Ulysses and SOHO/Earth. SOHO orbits the Sun with the Earth so no distinction is made between the two. Ulysses' orbit is inclined to the heliographic equator by 80°, has an aphelion of 5.4 AU, a perihelion of 1.34 AU, and is essentially stationary with respect to the Sun. Since it takes the Earth and SOHO one year to circumnavigate the Sun, the included angle between Ulysses and SOHO, as measured with respect to the Sun, is generally 90° twice a year. The locations where this occurs in the SOHO orbit are marked here with triangles (\triangle and ∇) and these times are when Ulysses and SOHO are in quadrature. The May 1997 quadrature observations are indicated with dashed lines. SOHO was on the near side of the Sun, at the \triangle , observing 10° north of the equator off the east limb. Ulysses was at 5.1 AU, 10° north of the equator, also off the east limb.
- Figure 2. (a) Solar daily sunspot number (Boulder/Space Environment Center) showing that while Ulysses was launched near sunspot maximum, the May 1997 qaudrature occurred very near sunspot minimum. (b) Solar wind speed variation at Ulysses showing the predominance of corotating interaction regions from equatorial extensions of coronal holes up until the time of the quadrature, marked here by 'A'.
- Figure 3. LASCO/C2 images from 22 May, 26 May, and 1 June 1997. The white line shows the direction to Ulysses. The streamer belt was confined to the equator during this entire interval, but changed appearance. There was a bright, isolated streamer during 21-25 May and also during 29 May 1 June. During 26-28 May, the equatorial streamer broadened into a fan (or "forest") made up of several rays without an obvious isolated streamer.
- Figure 4. Source surface magnetic field map from Wilcox Solar Observatory (Solar-Geophysical Data) for Carrington Rotation 1923, showing data from 20 May through 19 June 1997. The contour levels are 0, +/-1, 2, 5, 10, and 20 mTeslas. The horizontal scale at the bottom is heliographic longitude. The neutral line is shown as the heavy solid, wavy line near the equator and this line is commonly used to predict the center of the streamer belt. A gray band has been superimposed on the map, centered on the latitude of Ulysses and showing the location of the limb on the indicated dates in May 1997. This band is the source location for wind later detected at Ulysses.
- Figure 5. Photospheric line-of-sight magnetic field map from Wilcox Solar Observatory (Solar-Geophysical Data) for Carrington Rotation 1923, showing data from 20 May through 19 June 1997. The contour levels are 0, +/-100, 500, 1000, and 2000 mTeslas. The region marked as the "forest" lies beneath the fanned out portion of the streamer belt noted in Figure 3(b). The boundaries of the northern polar coronal hole for Carrington Rotations 1922 and 1923 are marked in dark and light gray, respectively.
- Figure 6. (a) One hour average values of the solar wind speed, proton number density, and magnetic field strength at Ulysses from 14 June to 29 June 1997 (DoY 165-180). (b) Solar wind speed (solid) from later in 1997 when Ulysses was still close to the heliographic equator and 5 AU but immersed in typical slow solar wind. The heliographic latitude of Ulysses is shown by the dotted line.
- Figure 7. Solar wind speed, magnetic field strength, and density from the observing interval shown in Figure 6(a) that has been mapped back to the Sun using the constant velocity approximation. The horizontal axis shows time in terms of the day the solar wind left the Sun. DoY 141 is 21 May 1997 and DoY 154 is 3 June 1997. Figure 4 can be used to convert DoY the wind left the Sun into Carrington longitude. The three intervals, I1, I2, and I3, and the two filled data points in field strength and density are discussed in the text.
- Figure 8. Proton and alpha particle temperatures from the observing interval shown in Figure 6(a), mapped back to the Sun using the constant velocity approximation. The horizontal axis is the same as in Figure 7.
- Figure 9. UVCS Ly- α intensity from DoY 141-153, in the $9-10^{\circ}$ latitude range, during the May 1997 SOHO-Ulysses quadrature. Top panel: $I_{Ly-\alpha}$ at 3.5 R_{sun} . Bottom panel: $I_{Ly-\alpha}$ at 4.5 R_{sun} . Values have been averaged over the observing interval; the 1σ error bar is too small to show up on the scale of this figure. The intervals marked I1, I2, and I3 are described in the text.
- Figure 10. UVCS OVI 1032/1037 Å line ratio at 3.5 (top panel) and 4.5 (bottom panel) R_{sun} , in the 9 10° latitude range, from DoY 141-153; the 1 σ error bars are also shown.

- Figure 11. C2 images of the CMEs observed on 23 and 25 May 1997.
- Figure 12. Hourly average values of the interplanetary magnetic field vector and solar wind velocity meridional and azimuthal components (in RTN coordinates) at Ulysses, as mapped back to the origin time at the Sun (see Figure 7).
- Figure 13. The small transient on 26 May. The top panel shows the "before" and "after" images. The transient itself is shown in a series of difference images, differenced with resect to the initial image at 2022h and plotted as negatives so that density excess is dark and density deficit is light. The fiducial marks on the top right image at 2330h show the heliographic equator, the latitude of Ulysses (10° north of the equator), and the UVCS observing heights of 3.5 and 4.5 R_{sun} .
- Figure 14. Top/middle panels: $I_{Ly-\alpha}$ on DoY 146 (26 May) at 3.5 and 4.5 R_{sun} . Data have a temporal resolution of about 15 minutes. Bottom panel: Ratio of 1032/1037 Å line intensities at 3.5 (+) and 4.5 (x) R_{sun} . The five data points represent average R values over, respectively, 8100, 7800, 3000, 5700, and 3000 second observing intervals.
- Figure 15. Electron density versus heliocentric distance along the Sun-Ulysses radius for 26 May 1997. Error bars are derived from uncertainties in the parameters given by the best fitting technique used to derive N_e values (see text).
- Figure 16. Profile of the ratio R of the total intensity of OVI 1032 Å to OVI 1037 Å lines as a function of the plasma outflow speed, for the set of parameters given in the figure.

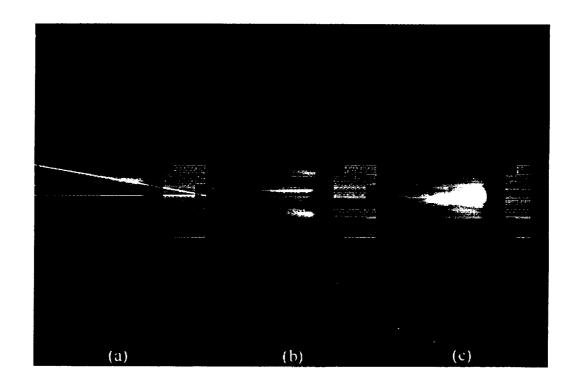
Table 1. East Limb Condition and Morphology from LASCO-C2

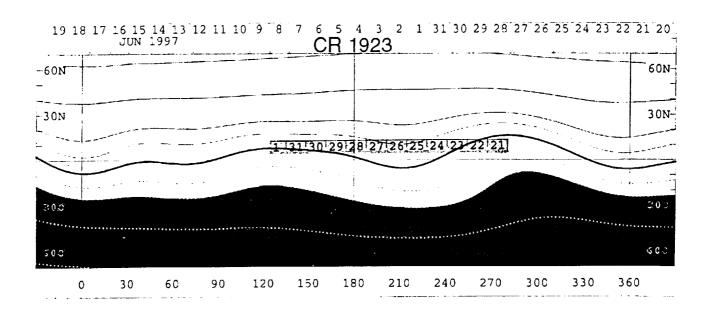
Date	Quiet?	Notes
19 May	No	CME 0130-2400h. Single isolated streamer, bright north edge.
20 May	Yes	Single isolated streamer, bright north edge.
21 May	Yes	Single isolated streamer, bright north edge.
22 May	(Yes)	Swelling in base of streamer at 2300h, in southern quadrant. Streamer unaffected. Single isolated streamer, bright north edge.
23 May	No	Small CME 0000h-1100h, quiet rest of the day. Streamer is unaffected.
24 May	Yes	Streamer slowly becomes broader and more diffuse on northern edge, with more rays.
25 May	No	Small CME 1500h-1900h. Streamer is broader, with more rays, at end of day.
26 May	(Yes)	Small changes at start and end of the day (0100-0430h, 1930-2400h). Slow evolution throughout the day.
27 May	(Yes)	Slow evolution throughout the day.
28 May	Yes	Streamer is still broadened into a forest.
29 May	(Yes)	Small fluctuations on northern edge. North edge has faded or withdrawn equatorward by end of day, leaving a sharp streamer.
30 May	Yes	Narrow, sharp streamer, diffuse north edge.
31 May	Yes	Narrow, sharp streamer, diffuse north edge.
1 June	No	Small CME 0800-1700h the streamer is not visibly affected.

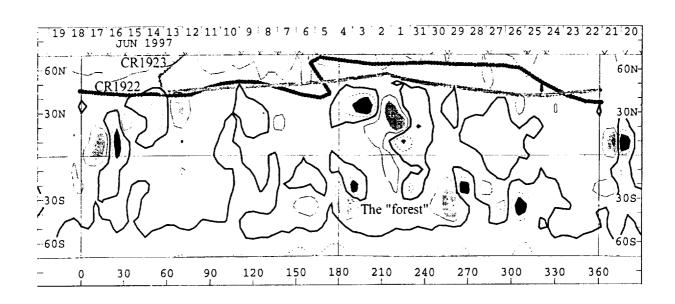




"The May 1997 SOHO-Ulysses Quadrature"
Suess et al., subm. to JGR (2000)







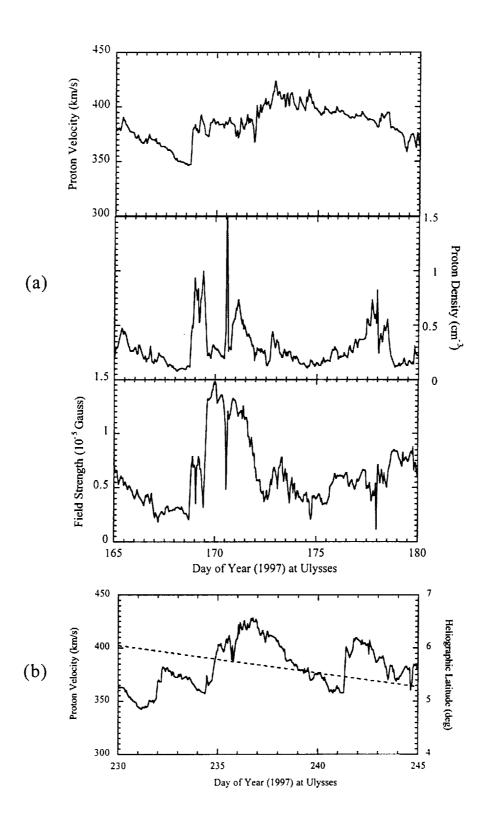


Figure 6
"The May 1997 SOHO-Ulysses Quadrature"
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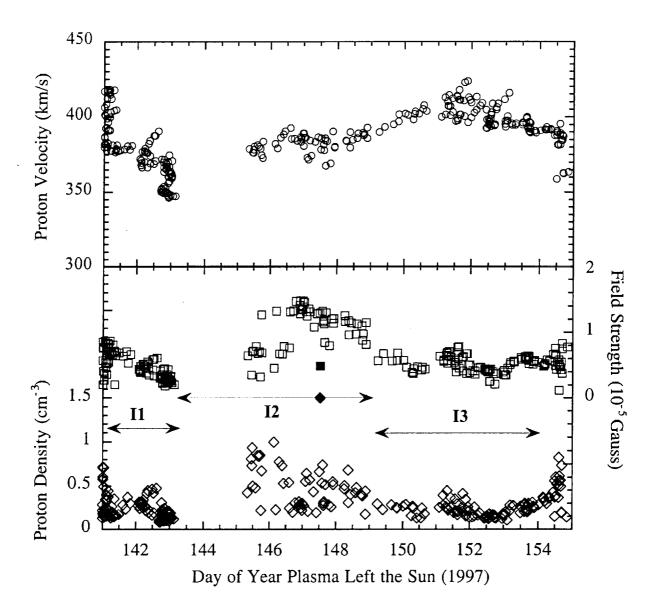


Figure 7
"The May 1997 SOHO-Ulysses Quadrature"
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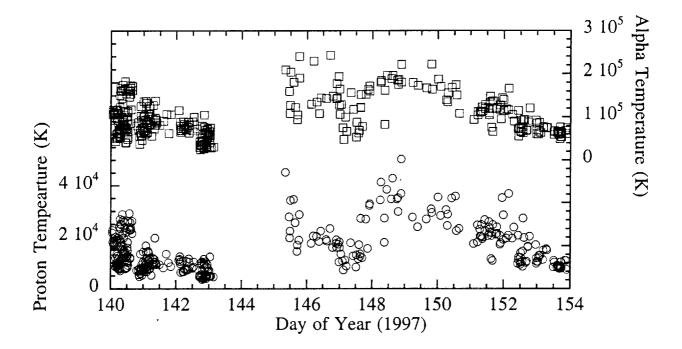


Figure 8
"The May 1997 SOHO-Ulysses Quadrature"
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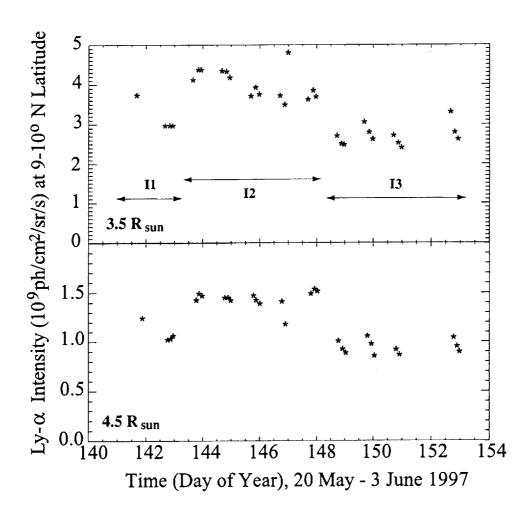


Figure 9
"The May 1997 SOHO-Ulysses Quadrature"
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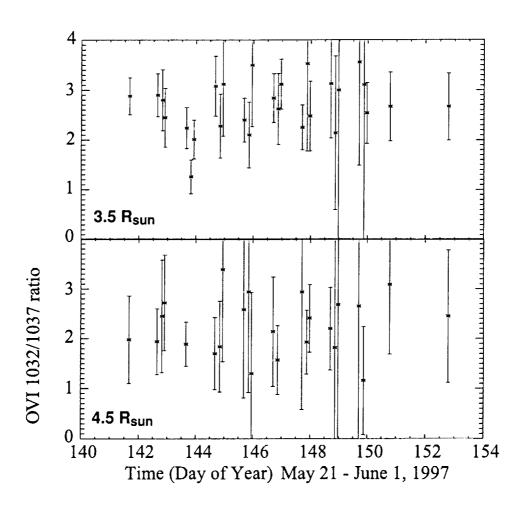


Figure 10
"The May 1997 SOHO-Ulysses Quadrature"
Suess et al., subm. to JGR (2000)



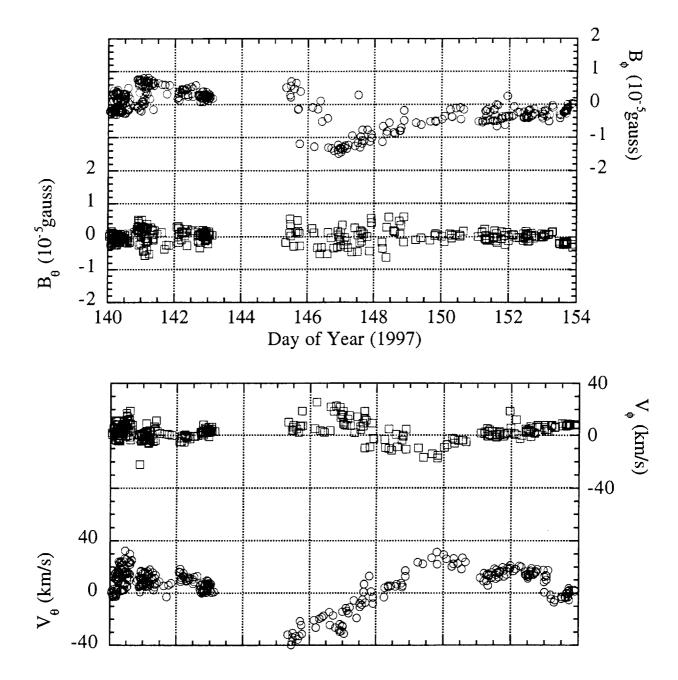
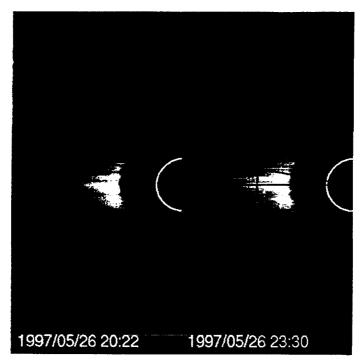
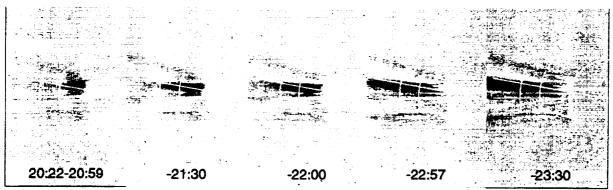
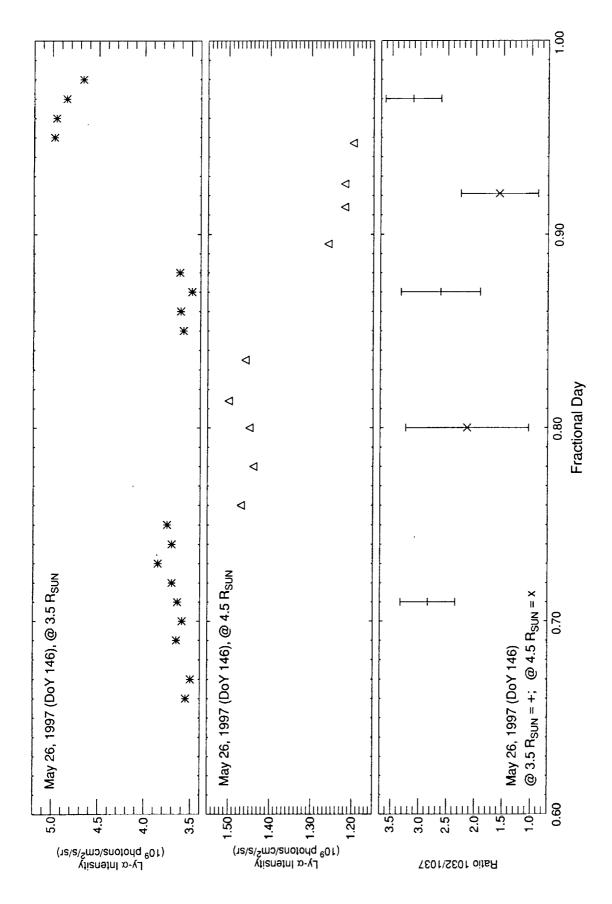


Figure 12
"The May 1997 SOHO-Ulysses Quadrature"
Suess et al., subm. to JGR (2000)





Suess et al., subm. to JGR (2000)



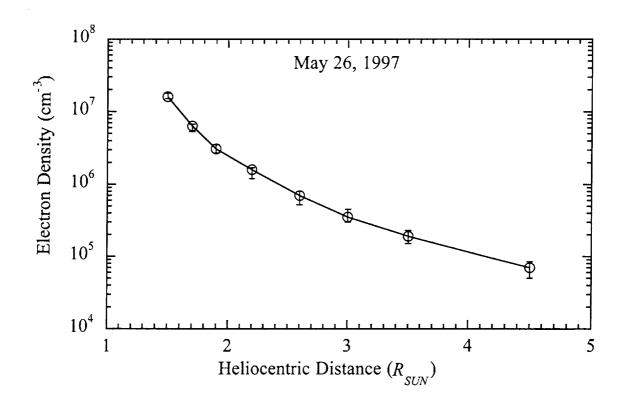


Figure 15
"The May 1997 SOHO-Ulysses Quadrature"
Suess et al., subm. to JGR (2000)

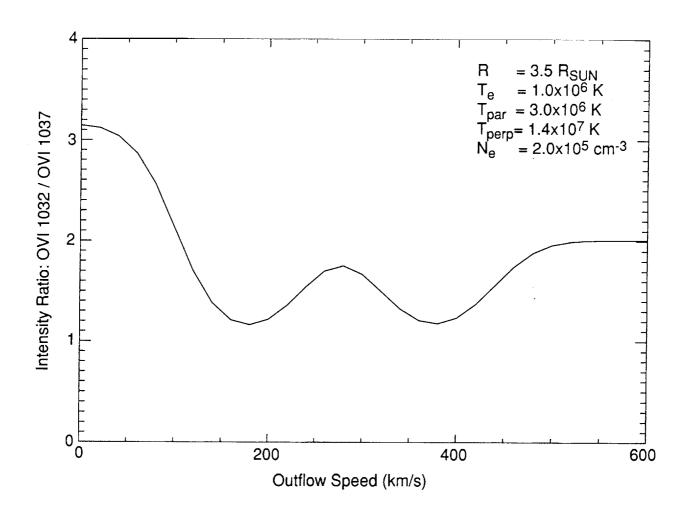


Figure 16
"The May 1997 SOHO-Ulysses Quadrature"
Suess et al., subm. to JGR (2000)